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**Critical Values of Slowly Growing Meromorphic Functions**

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**Abstract.** Let  $f$  be transcendental and meromorphic in the plane. We obtain sharp lower bounds for the growth of  $f$ , in terms of the minimum spherical distance between the critical values of  $f$ . The extremal examples arise from elliptic functions.

**Keywords.** Meromorphic function, critical value, Nevanlinna theory, elliptic function.

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